

What is claimed is:

1. A method of performing automated shipping in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said method comprising:

creating a production ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location, said production ready file including shipping instructions;

submitting said production ready file to the print service provider location via an electronic network; and

receiving a printed output of said production ready file and shipping said printed output at a shipping device in accordance with shipping instructions from said production ready file.

2. A method of performing automated shipping according to claim 1, wherein after said step of submitting, said method further comprises a step of verifying, at said print service provider location, that said production ready file will be produced at said print service provider location as designed at the designer location and, if not, correcting said production ready file, including said shipping instructions, to ensure production substantially as designed.

3. A method of performing automated shipping according to claim 2, wherein said step of correcting further comprises reading shipping instructions prepared at the designer location and preparing appropriate corresponding instructions for an actual shipping device to be used at the print service provider location.

4. A method of performing automated shipping according to claim 2, wherein said step of correcting further comprises adding shipping instructions for an actual shipping device to be used at the print service provider location to supplement shipping instructions prepared at the designer location.

5. A method of performing automated shipping according to claim 2, wherein said method further comprises sending an indication of the operational status of the shipping device to a server computer at said print service provider location.

6. A method of performing automated shipping according to claim 2, wherein said method further comprises sending an indication of the job completion status of the shipping device to a server computer at said print service provider location.

7. A method of performing automated shipping according to claim 2, wherein said step of correcting further comprising updating a job ticket corresponding to said production ready file.

8. A method of performing automated shipping according to claim 1, wherein said step of creating a production ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location further comprises selecting an available shipping device based on said updated device configuration information.

9. A program product for performing automated shipping in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said product comprising machine-readable program code for causing, when executed, a machine to perform the following method steps:

creating a production ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location, said production ready file including shipping instructions;

submitting said production ready file to the print service provider location via an electronic network; and

receiving a printed output of said production ready file and shipping said printed output at a shipping device in accordance with shipping instructions from said production ready file.

10. A program product according to claim 9, wherein after said step of submitting, said method further comprises a step of verifying, at said print service provider location, that said production ready file will be produced at said print service provider location as designed at the designer location and, if not, correcting said production ready file, including said shipping instructions, to ensure production substantially as designed.

11. A program product according to claim 10, wherein said step of correcting further comprises reading shipping instructions prepared at the designer location and preparing appropriate corresponding instructions for an actual shipping device to be used at the print service provider location.

12. A program product according to claim 10, wherein said step of correcting further comprises adding shipping instructions for an actual shipping device to be used at the print service provider location to supplement shipping instructions prepared at the designer location.

13. A program product according to claim 10, wherein said method further comprises sending an indication of the operational status of the shipping device to a server computer at said print service provider location.

14. A program product according to claim 10, wherein said method further comprises sending an indication of the job completion status of the shipping device to a server computer at said print service provider location.

15. A program product according to claim 10, wherein said step of correcting further comprising updating a job ticket corresponding to said production ready file.

16. A program product according to claim 9, wherein said step of creating a production ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location further comprises selecting an available shipping device based on said updated device configuration information.

17. A system for performing automated shipping in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said system comprising:

means for creating a production ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location, said production ready file including shipping instructions;

means for submitting said production ready file to the print service provider location via an electronic network; and

means for receiving a printed output of said production ready file and shipping said printed output at a shipping device in accordance with shipping instructions from said production ready file.